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count of the present condition of this endowment. He has stated to us, that the estate of the Charity now produced a net rent of 600*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* only, after deducting fee-farm rents and agents fees; but we have not been able to procure an account of the number of acres which the estate contains, or an estimate of the present annual value of the lands. It appears from Dr. St. George's examination, that besides this estate, there is the sum of six thousand pounds in three and a half per cent. debentures, lodged in the Bank of Messrs. Finlay and Company, in Dublin, in the name of Doctor St. George, who is also the treasurer of this Charity, and the interest of which debentures amounts to 210*l.* per annum, so that the total present income of this charity-school is 816*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* per annum.

There are at present forty boys in this establishment, who are fed, clothed, and schooled: they are received in the foundation at six years of age, and at fourteen, (and sometimes not till sixteen years of age,) are apprenticed to weavers in general, but are not instructed in any trade whilst in the school; a fee of 3*l.* is given with each apprentice to the master, and 3*l.* more at the end of the first year, and 4*l.* to the lad himself, at the expiration of the apprenticeship.

The officers of this establishment and their respective salaries are as follows.

	Per Annum. £. s. d.
A Chaplain,.....	50 — —
1st School-master,.....	20 — —
2d Ditto,.....	8 — —
A Steward,.....	13 13 —
Housekeeper, and 2 maid-servants,.....	21 7 6
Apothecary,.....	6 16 6
Bailiff,.....	2 5 6
Herd,.....	2 5 6
	<hr/> £.124 8 —

The agent to the estate is paid at the rate of one shilling in the pound.

There is a garden of three acres, walled in and adjoining the House, part of which is converted into a nursery for rearing young forest trees, which are to be sold for the benefit of the Charity; there is a chapel also, which was built agreeably to the will of the founder, adjoining the school, in which divine service is regularly performed by the chaplain, who is head Superintendent of the establishment. The total annual expense of the institution is about 800*l.*

The present trustees, besides those five who from their situations are perpetual trustees, are

The present Archbishop of Tuam,
Doctor Howard St. George,
Colonel Mervyn Archdale,
Doctor Duigenan,
The Rev. Dean of Raphoe,
Henry Brooke, Esquire,
Rev. Richard Babington,

(one vacant.)

(To be continued.)

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

PERMIT me to use the rights of free discussion, and to call in question the merits of the plan hitherto pursued for the management of the new Academical Institution in your town. Some of you perhaps may be active in the management of it, and all of you are without doubt interested in its success. I also am desirous that an institution for the diffusion of useful knowledge may succeed, but I fear in this case the most judicious plans have not been adopted to command success. A certain degree of courage is necessary to expose defects, when a large body of respectable persons are concerned, and when, as too generally happens in disputed cases,

the majority are ready to overwhelm with obloquy the objector to favourite schemes. I shall, however, dare to express my opinion, while I stand open to conviction, if arguments shall be adduced to prove, that I have taken up erroneous opinions on the subject. Discussions, fairly conducted on both sides, cannot injure the interests of the institution.

The new building looks well at a distance. I have never examined it closely. A part of the funds has been judiciously reserved for literary purposes. My objection lies to the plan being too extended, at least in the first instance. To establish a good school, or academy, if the latter term pleases best, appears, in my view, most consonant to the present limited means of the institution. For although large subscriptions were given at first, yet these resources are quickly exhausted, and when the building shall be completed, the funds for professors will be scanty indeed. To remedy this deficiency, some have looked to receive aid from government. In the present state of the dilapidated finances of the country, it is scarcely fair to tax the community with the support of a plan calculated only for the exclusive benefit of a corner of the empire. But there is a stronger objection. Before receiving aid from government, independence must be bartered. In the view of some, this has already taken place, and in the appointment of honorary visitors, the conductors of the institution have prepared masters for it, as the Duke of Richmond not obscurely hinted in his answer to the address of the managers and visitors, when he was in Belfast. Thus, if in hopes of conciliating favour, concessions are made either to government, or the aristocratic part of the community, what might be gained in funds, would be lost in the true usefulness

of an independent and unshackled institution, from which the pure genuine principles of civil and religious liberty might be expected to flow, as from an unpolluted source.

The plan of giving the Academical Institution the form of a College, appears to have been an original error. But it is a defect in the Irish character, to commence magnificently, and for want of adequate means, to end on a greatly diminished scale. The town of Belfast, of late, furnishes few exceptions to the general rule, and magnificence and show appear in the fashionable revolution of public opinion, to be preferred to substantial usefulness. Yet, in my estimation, it is preferable to begin moderately, and proceed by slow degrees, rather than to commence magnificently, and end with diminished splendour.

To afford a solid foundation for professorships, large permanent funds would be necessary to give security to induce men of talents to come, as the emoluments from pupils would be so very uncertain, and several professors would be necessary to give lectures in the different branches of a collegiate course of education. On a more contracted scale, a good school might be highly advantageous. If the head master were judiciously selected, in addition to his general oversight over the school, and the subordinate teachers, he might give lectures on some one or two of the most important or popular branches, to which probably the youth of the town of both sexes might be induced to resort, as was the case at Anderson's institution at Glasgow, where lectures at 8 o'clock in the morning, on Natural Philosophy, and at 10 on Chemistry, were largely attended, and, to their honour be it mentioned, young females formed no inconsiderable part of the audience.

A large increase to the emoluments of the head-master, or professor, might thus be obtained, while the scholars would have the benefit of a plan more extended, than the common routine of a school.

As the plan is not yet fully matured, and no steps have been taken to carry the first conceived ideas into execution, would it be too late even now to retrace the first movements? If the plan of the literary department is too extended, might not consolidation be yet given by a contraction of the original scheme? I have suggested my ideas with a good intention, and am satisfied with having endeavoured to excite discussion on points which I consider as of the highest importance to the welfare of an institution, which, if well conducted, may prove of the highest advantage to the province of Ulster. In conclusion, I would say to all concerned in the management, Preserve your independence; thus only can you usefully assist in training up the youth of this quarter, "to all that is manly, good, and fair," and while you exert yourselves to procure the rudiments of learning, lay the foundation for making the future pupils of the institution, good citizens of a free state. "Festina lente."

CATO, the Censor.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

THE following remarks will perhaps suit your publication; and I am convinced you will conceive the subject of it worthy of discussion. It was suggested by a conversation with a friend, on the nature of academical institutions, &c.; and contains a brief summary of the principal thoughts that arose in the course of the conversation.

PLATO.

IN the establishment of learned institutions, the mode generally adopted for the conveyance of instruction has been that of lectures delivered *vivâ voce*. Whether this be the best mode, or whether it should be adopted, as it has been in some establishments, to the exclusion of every other, are questions worthy of discussion.

Were we to judge from general practice, we should decide in favour of public lectureships; for, with perhaps the solitary instance of Dublin college, which however has a few lectureships on its foundation, the sciences and humanities are taught throughout Europe in public lectures delivered in form of discourses.

At the revival of literature, before colleges were regularly organized, we can see the probability that when a man, who had distinguished himself by his acquirements, wished to extend his fame and attract an audience, he would naturally seek through a public lecture, to exhibit a sample of his knowledge and abilities. This by a very easy gradation settles into a regular course of lectures; and the example set by one man of eminence, and attended with success, would be followed by others. The crowds attracted by the first adventurer, and the taste for learning excited by his exertions, present a favourable opportunity for a second adventurer; and thus by the mutual connection and re-action of all the branches of knowledge, the servants of science are collected round the centre, and a college is established. This sketch seems to obtain confirmation from what is detailed in the history of the twelfth century, when on the discovery of the pandects at Amalfi in Italy,